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SATURDAY
MARCH 20, 1954

Went to the office this morning. Had a telephone conversation with Winthrop in London and called his attention to a telegram sent out today in response to what I consider an over-optimistic view the Department has taken about the present French situation. I suggested to him also he might care discreetly to use some of the material contained in my report on the conversation with Mollet. It is quite evident the British and ourselves will have to combine our efforts to the fullest possible extent to attempt to persuade the French to emerge from their slough of despond. The telegram follows:

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"Sent: SECSTATE WASHINGTON. COLED 200.

"RPTD INFO: HICOG BONN. 711.
AMEMBASSY LONDON. 810.

"LIMIT DISTRIBUTION.

"Am aware serious consequences failure obtain substantial completion EDC ratification debate before Easter. But slippage has already occurred. As pointed out in previous telegrams French Government has not taken actions necessary within time schedule calculated to achieve objective desired. In particular it has not made dispositions to obtain essential Socialist votes PAREN COLED 197 END PAREN. Nor can it now do so even if it wishes in time substantially to complete debate before Easter recess if Mollet's description of his party situation is accurate and honest which I have no reason to doubt.

"Of three Government preconditions, two, namely US and UK assurances, have been met. Nothing can sufficiently moderate excessive French demands embodied so-called Maurice Schumann draft in connection with Saar settlement except personal meeting between Bidault and Adenauer.

"I believe that debate will not commence before holiday. Nor are there presently definite assurances Government will decide before Easter on date for subsequent debate. (SEGTEL 3109, March 17). BRUCE."

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MA
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E. and I went down to Versailles to spend the night. I sat up until 1:00 in the morning amplifying my previous remarks on the present French attitude toward EDC.

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